

LEGISLATION TO AMEND THE
SECOND MORRILL ACT

HON. KWEISI MFUME

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 1995

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation which was initially brought to the attention of this House by my good friend, the late Congressman Mickey Leland. This legislation seeks to amend the Second Morrill Act which contains the unconstitutional separate but equal doctrine. The obsolete language that this bill seeks to delete permitted racial segregation in agricultural and mechanic arts colleges that were funded by the Agricultural College Act of 1890, or as it is more commonly known the Second Morrill Act. However, this legislation would not affect the continued funding of any institutions which were established by the act.

The Second Morrill Act authorizes Federal funds for the support of colleges to teach agriculture and mechanic arts in the States and territories. Congress stipulated in the act that funds authorized by the act may not be used for colleges which made "a distinction of race or color in the admission of students." However, in the 1890's, many States either provided no education for black students or educated them in schools separate from white students. Therefore, the act allowed for the "establishment and maintenance of such colleges separately for white and colored students" and "for a just and equitable division of the fund . . . between one college for white students and one institution for colored students."

This language, which remains in the U.S. Code, stirs up memories from one of the most troubling chapters in our Nation's history. Over 40 years ago, the Supreme Court decisions in Brown versus Board of Education and Bolling versus Sharp rendered the language meaningless. Although the law may be moot, the fact that it remains on the books is an affront to all African-Americans.

The continued presence of the language in the U.S. Code contradicts our national policy against racial segregation and serves no valid function. The deletion of the language is long overdue.

I sincerely hope that the committees of jurisdiction will act quickly on this measure and that enactment will be forthcoming.

THE CIVIL WAR IN BOSNIA

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 1995

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, it is tragic enough that we are being driven into the morass of a civil war in Bosnia. The tragedy is compounded by the fact that we are driven by a President whose attitude on the military was set in the late 1960's. There is no evidence that his attitude has changed.

I have seen no more eloquent commentary on this tragedy than Wesley Pruden's column in yesterday's Washington Times. I place it in today's RECORD, and urge everyone to read it.

[From the Washington Times, Dec. 5, 1995]

CAUTIONARY ADVICE FROM THE MASTER

(By Wesley Pruden)

"I did not take the matter lightly but studied it carefully, and there was a time when not many people had more information . . . at hand than I did.

"I have written and spoken and marched against . . . war. One of the national organizers of the Vietnam Moratorium is a close friend of mine. After I left Arkansas last summer, I went to Washington to work in the national headquarters of the Moratorium, then to England to organize the Americans here for demonstrations . . .

"From my work I came to believe that . . . no government really rooted in limited, parliamentary democracy should have the power to make its citizens fight and kill and die in a war they may oppose, a war which even possibly may be wrong, a war which, in any case, does not involve immediately the peace and freedom of the nation."

Well, of course, that was then, when young Master William's very own rear end was on the line, and a large target it made, too. But this is now, when the only "incoming" he has to worry about is the errant lamp thrown across the presidential bedroom. By parties unknown, of course. Hillary's contempt for the men who wear the uniform of her country is well known, too, but like the master, the missus hides it skillfully when the chocolate chips are down, as they were yesterday when she invited reporters into the White House to see all the nice Christmas decorations.

The boys soon to be at the front occupy the first lady's deepest thoughts. Her dearest wish is for something she and the marching bands, with streamers flying, insist on calling "the peace process," oblivious of the cruelty in the cliché and of what everybody beyond the Beltway understands by instinct, that the Bosnia "peace process" is to peace what Velveeta is to fine old Stilton.

"I also want everyone in America to support our military personnel who are going into Bosnia in the cause of peace," says Miss Hillary. She understands that if our boys can put their lives on the line to level killing fields drenched in the blood of a millennium of ethnic carnage, the most she can do is grit her teeth, suppress her '60s disdain for American soldiers, lately reprised at the Clinton White House, and urge everyone to send the boys at the front a Christmas card.

She wants Americans to remember the families the troops will leave behind, too. "People who take risks for peace, which is what we have seen in Northern Ireland or now in Bosnia, need to be supported."

Bill and Miss Hillary come late to their regard for the troops, and as sincere as they no doubt are—after months of practice at Miss Hillary's bedroom mirror the president can finally snap off a salute as crisply as any arriving boot at Parris Island—they don't understand that the rest of us need no tutelage in holding our fighting men in deference, honor and even awe. We were doing that when Master William was safe in the embrace of the friendly streets of London, leading cheers for Ho Chi Minh.

Only in America can commander-in-chief be an entry-level job, but you might think that a president with Mr. Clinton's military background (as governor, he was commander-in-chief of the Arkansas National Guard, and brooked no sloppily filled sandbags when the Ouachita River leaped its banks every spring) would choose discretion, not flamboyance, as his guide. Imagining himself as Henry V at Agincourt, he dons a dashing leather bomber jacket, with the patch of the 1st Armored Division on his

breast, for the patrol to the mess hall. But neither patch nor jacket makes him George S. Patton or enrolls him in the happy band of brothers. The gesture inevitably invites his troops to see him as a little boy on a tricycle, waving a stick sword, boasting that his daddy can lick the other daddies.

Mike McCurry, the president's press man, calls this the "theme of the week" strategy, and this president has more themes of the week than Baskin-Robbins has flavors. The president, he says, "wants to focus on making the humanitarian case" for sending troops to Bosnia, especially in this "season of hope."

The intended point, in the familiar Clinton tactic, is that anyone who gags and retches at the cynical manipulation of tragedy is naturally someone who opposes humanitarian gestures, who feels no tug at his heart in the season of the Prince of Peace.

Rep. Ike Skelton, a Democrat from Missouri, is one such ogre. He told the House yesterday that the Clinton policy—he was too polite to call it the re-election strategy—"puts our troops in a snake pit while we're angering half the snakes."

Snakes abound when you join civil wars, as young Master William tried to tell Col. Holmes at the University of Arkansas in that famous letter of phony piety 30 years ago. Nothing has changed.

FEDERAL WORKPLACE SAFETY
STANDARDS

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 1995

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to introduce legislation to ensure that U.S. Federal contractors comply with the laws that protect working men and women from unfair management practices and unsafe conditions in the workplace.

Every year, the Federal Government awards billions of dollars in contracts to corporate America. While these recipients provide jobs to local areas, some also violate their employees' right to bargain collectively, organize, and work in safe environment.

A recent Government Accounting Office [GAO] report cited that 13 percent of the fiscal year 1993 contracts went to 80 violators of the National Labor Relations Act [NLRA]. Six of those violators were among the largest Federal contractors, ranking among the top 20 firms receiving Federal contract dollars.

Some of the most egregious violations include interrogating workers about union membership, promising workers a pay raise if they oust the union, increasing benefits to nonunion employees, threatening workers with discharge because of their union activity, and threatening to withhold a wage increase because workers selected the union as their collective bargaining representative.

Federal contractors who violate Occupational Safety and Health Act [OSHA] standards also continue to receive billions of dollars in contracts. A February 6, 1995 Wall Street Journal article cited that of 50 public companies with the largest Federal awards in fiscal 1993, 70 percent were cited by OSHA for a total of more than 1,100 willful or repeated safety violations in the previous 5 fiscal years. At a time when more than 55,000 Americans die on the job each year, we cannot afford to conduct business with contractors who willfully